

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

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COMMERCE:DSCHLECHTY

TREASURY:E BARBER

-----116515 240835Z/11

R 240242Z MAR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN BY POUCH

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USOECD ALSO FOR EMBASSY; USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

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TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, MTN, FR, EC

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SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON FRENCH PROTEIN INDEPENDENCE POLICY

REFS: (A) PARIS 8447, (B) BRUSSELS 5511

1. WE ARE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED BY GOF DECISION TO ADOPT,
FORMALLY AT THE CABINET LEVEL, A PROGRAM DESIGNED TO

INCREASE FRENCH PROTEIN INDEPENDENCE BY LIMITING U.S.
AND OTHER EXPORTERS' ACCESS TO THE EC PROTEIN MARKET.
WHILE THE PRINCIPAL MOTIVATION FOR THIS POLICY STATEMENT
WAS NO DOUBT GOF DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN THE GOVERNMENT'S
POLITICAL SUPPORT IN THE FARM COMMUNITY PRIOR TO NATIONAL
ELECTIONS, REDUCED PROTEIN IMPORTS, PARTICULARLY OF
SOYBEANS, IS A LONG STANDING FRENCH OBJECTIVE AND THERE IS
NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE GOF WILL NOT PURSUE
THE ACTION PROGRAM IT HAS FORMULATED. WE THEREFORE
BELIEVE IT ESSENTIAL TO REITERATE U.S. OPPOSITION TO
ANY ACTION WHICH WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT U.S. ACCESS TO THE
EC MARKET FOR FEED PROTEINS.

2. EMBASSY PARIS REQUESTED TO CONVEY FOLLOWING VIEWS TO
GOF AT APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL.

-- THE USG IS CONCERNED AT THE ACTION PROGRAM FOR PROTEIN
INDEPENDENCE ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON
FEBRUARY 22.

-- MANY OF THE POLICIES WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE
REPORTEDLY INTENDS TO URGE THE EC TO ADOPT WOULD BE
INCONSISTENT WITH THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE EC AND OF
THE GOF UNDER THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE
AND WOULD NULLIFY OR SEVERELY IMPAIR BENEFITS ACCRUING
TO THE UNITED STATES FROM IMPORTANT TRADE CONCESSIONS
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GRANTED TO THE UNITED STATES IN THE FIFTH (DILLON) ROUND OF
MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS.

-- WHILE THE USG IS CONFIDENT THAT THE EC WILL HONOR
ITS OBLIGATIONS TO ITS TRADING PARTNERS, THE ESPousal
OF SUCH POSITIONS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE COULD BE
TAKEN IN IMPORTANT SECTORS OF U.S. PUBLIC OPINION AS AN
INDICATION THAT AN INFLUENTIAL MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITIES HOLDS IN LITTLE REGARD IMPORTANT OBLIGATIONS
CONTRACTED BY THE COMMUNITIES WITH ITS TRADING PARTNERS,
IN PARTICULAR WITH THE UNITED STATES. CONTINUED ADVOCACY
OF SUCH POLICIES BY THE GOF, FURTHERMORE, WOULD UNDERMINE
THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN AND
STRENGTHEN THE PUBLIC SUPPORT REQUIRED TO ENABLE THE
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE TO PURSUE OPEN
TRADE POLICIES.

-- WE THEREFORE URGE THE GOF TO RE-EXAMINE ITS RECENTLY
ADOPTED POLICIES TO ACHIEVE PROTEIN INDEPENDENCE.

3. USEEC SHOULD INFORM COMMISSION OF U.S. DEMARCHE
TO PARIS AND NOTE WITH APPRECIATION FIRM STAND ON PROTEIN

IMPORTS TAKEN BY AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER GUNDELACH IN
REMARKS BEFORE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. VANCE

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